RANELAGH
Masquerade Jubilee Balls,
A
BAD RETURN
FOR
Late Deliverances, and an Omen of greater impending Judgments.

Containing,

I. The Presentment of the Grand Jury of *Middlesex*, against RIDOTTOES, MASQUERADES, BALLS, *&c.*

II. Extract from the late Bishop of *London*'s (Dr. *Gibson*'s) Sermon against MASQUERADES.

III. Extract from the present Bishop of *London*'s Letter, on Occasion of the late *Earthquakes*.

IV. A Copy of the Paper posted up, on *Easter-Sunday*, on all the Churches and public Places in *London* and *Westminster*; With Remarks.

V. Reasons why Persons of Prudence should not venture to go to the MASQUERADE at *Ranelagh* Gardens, advertised for *Wednesday*, *April* 25.

The SECOND EDITION.

With a PREFACE, shewing the Absurdity of suffering Guards to protect Illegal Assemblies.

Let it be your Business to support and propagate Religion, Good Manners, and Good Order, amongst My People.
King's Speech.

LONDON:
Printed for W. OWEN, at *Homer*'s *Head*, near *Temple-Bar*; And Sold at all the Pamphlet-Shops in *London* and *Westminster*. M.DCC.L.

[Price Four-pence.]

PREFACE.

SINCE the publishing the following Papers, and *before* the last MASQUERADE BALL AT RANELAGH GARDENS, the following Resolution of his Majesty's Justices of Peace was printed in the Daily Papers; *viz.*

'At the General Quarter-Sessions of 'the Peace of our Sovereign Lord 'the King, holden at *Westminster*, '*in and for the County of* Middle-'sex, on *Monday* in the Week next 'after the Close of *Easter*; to wit, 'the 23d of *April* in the Year of 'our Lord 1750.

'WHereas an Advertisement has 'been published and dispersed, 'That there will be a *Jubilee Mas-'querade Ball* at *Ranelagh-House* in '*Chelsea*, on *Wednesday* next;---THIS 'COURT, taking the same into Con-'sideration, doth declare, That such 'Meeting, as it tends to the Encou-'ragement of GAMING, LEWDNESS, 'and all manner of DEBAUCHERY, 'and the CORRUPTION of the MO-'RALS OF BOTH SEXES, is *unlawful*,

'and a PUBLIC NUISANCE: And 'therefore this Court is determined to '*punish* and *suppress* the same, to the 'utmost of their Power: And it is 'Ordered, That this Resolution be '*published* in the News-Papers, to 'prevent INNOCENT Persons going to 'the said Meeting, and thereby sub-'jecting themselves to PROSECUTIONS, 'and other Inconveniences, which 'may arise therefrom.

After this strong Declaration of his Majesty's Justices of Peace, it was expected, that the PATRONS and MANAGERS of the JUBILEE MASQUERADE BALL would not have had the Insolence to attempt carrying it on, in Defiance of the Civil Magistrate, and the Laws of this Land (for the Divine Ones have been long suffered to be trampled upon with Impunity).—But we find they were hardy enough not only to attempt it, but, as we are told, protected in their Impudence by a Military Force:— Can it be imagined, in a free Government, that any Officer would venture to guard an Assembly declared to be *Illegal*, and

and a *Public Nuisance?*--- Why may we not in time see Guards placed at the Doors of G----g Houses, B----y and S----l Meetings, when Persons of DIGNITY, and uncommon DISTINCTION, are pleased to grace such Places of Resort with their Presence?-- There is now a full End put to RELIGION, GOOD MANNERS, and GOOD ORDER, which his MAJESTY so heartily recommended in his last MOST GRACIOUS SPEECH from the Throne:-- One would have hoped, that this PATERNAL Advice might have been remembered a little longer by one who was near enough to have heard those Words spoken:--We must at the same time assure the Town, That their *Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of* Wales were, the 25th of *April* (the same Night of the Masquerade Ball), at the Play of *Merope* in *Drury-Lane:* And indeed from his Royal Highness's known Regard for the Laws, and the Civil Government of his Country, his worst Enemies (if such a Prince can have any) will not doubt but he would be the

laſt Perſon in this Kingdom who would by his Preſence countenance or encourage an ILLEGAL Aſſembly.

We ſhould be glad to know, if the Mob (as they are unjuſtly called) had pelted or thrown Dirt at the *ſtrange Creatures*, as they paſſed along to *Ranelagh Gardens* ;-- Would any Officer or Soldier in this Kingdom have ventured to wound or fire a Gun upon this Occaſion, without the Orders of the Civil Magiſtrate ?-- What Civil Magiſtrate would have given ſuch Orders ?-- And if a Military Officer had without ſuch Orders ventured to have wounded or ſhot any of his Majeſty's good Subjects (which we hope would not have been the Caſe), even if the MASK'D GENTRY had been treated as they well deſerved, ſuch Officer would have been tried for his Life, and perhaps hanged.

The young HEROES had threaten'd to go to *Ranelagh-Houſe* ARMED as well as MASKED ; and, if any Perſon had been uncivil to them, the pretty Creatures would have fired at them. --If they had done this, whether with

or

or without *Ball*, by the BLACK ACT (which they may read in the Statute-Book) they would certainly have been hanged, if PLEBEIANS; if P——RS, the Punishment might have been changed for a more honorary one.

It is proper to let the World know, that the same Persons, who were the noble Patrons of the FRENCH STROLLERS last Winter, are the intrepid Protectors of ITALIAN MASQUERADES. —The *French* Strollers had, as we are told, the Promise of a more numerous Guard; but they waved that Honour, and quietly departed the Kingdom.—And in whatever Contempt ENGLISHMEN may be held at present, a Time may come, when they may exert themselves with proper Resentment against all unnatural Betrayers of their Country, or their Abettors.

The News-writers tell us also, that, on *April* the 25th a Colonel's Guard mounted at *Ranelagh-House*; but this must be a Mistake, for a Colonel's Guard never mounts but when the King is present.

Notwithstanding all the Notice that

has been given, another Advertiſement came out, for a *Second Jubilee Maſquerade Ball* at *Ranelagh*, on *Tueſday* the 8th of *May*; and that Guards will be placed within and without the Houſe, and alſo upon the Roads; ſo that it will not be ſafe for any of his Majeſty's good Subjects to travel that Road, unleſs they can produce a Ticket for the Ball.—Sure the Civil Magiſtrates will rouſe themſelves, upon this repeated Inſolence, and Contempt of their Authority.—Let them go, attended with their proper and only Conſtitutional Guards; and let us ſee who dare oppoſe them in the Execution of their Civil Office.—If they are in earneſt by their laſt Reſolution, the Sheriff of the County of *Middleſex*, and the Juſtices of the Peace, have it in their Power, on the 8th of *May*, to begin a Reformation, which may be followed by ſuppreſſing many other notorious Meetings, which have triumphed of late with uncommon and unheard-of Impunity, to the Diſgrace of this Nation, the Diſhonour of God, and the Ruin of Thouſands.

THE PRESENTMENT OF THE GRAND JURY *of the County of* Middlesex, *A. D.* 1729. *to the* COURT *of* King's Bench *in* Westminster-Hall.

The Hon. John Bertie, *Esq*;
Sir Thomas Dyke, *Bart.*
Sir John Williams, *Knt.*
Francis Child, *Esq*;
Thomas Grosvenor, *Esq*;
Thomas Rowney, *Esq*;
John Walcott, *Esq*;
William Newland, *Esq*;
Richard Le Hunt, *Esq*;
Earnle Washburn, *Esq*;
Thomas Aynscombe, *Esq*;
Charles Price, *Esq*;
Thomas Bramston, *Esq*;
Michael Harvey, *Esq*;
George Lewen, *Esq*;
Robert Gay, *Esq*;
Edward Bertie, *Esq*;
John Walter, *Esq*;
Francis Colston, *Esq*;
William Herne, *Esq*;
Robert Wilson, *Esq*;
William Dyose, *Esq*;
Samuel Tuffnel, *Esq*;
Thomas Nobbs, *Esq*;

WE the GRAND JURY for the County of *Middlesex* should think we did not well and truly perform our whole Duty, or sufficiently maintain the Privileges of a GRAND JURY, if we omitted at this time

time to imitate a former Preſentment which was here *ſucceſsfully* made: As we have already done all in our Power to ſupport and confirm ſuch late ones as have been (we believe conſcientiouſly) laid before this Honourable Court, though they are ſince ridiculed, and called in Queſtion, out of it.

Therefore when we conſider, that an Aſſembly called the RIDOTTO's was preſented in this Court in *February* 1722-3. as common Nuiſances to the Public, as Nurſeries of *Lewdneſs*, *Extravagancies*, and *Immorality*, and alſo a Reproach and Scandal to Civil Government, and was thereupon ſoon after laid aſide: But that the MASQUERADE, which we have Reaſon to fear is a Meeting of more pernicious Conſequences, ſoon after ſucceeded in its Place, where it has ever ſince been annually kept up, and, as appears by the great Expence attending it, ſupported by Perſons of RANK and QUALITY — Where, under various Diſguiſes, Crimes equal to barefaced Impieties are practiſed, and great Sums of Money illegally loſt; which, if not ſeaſonably prevented, will, as it has already very much debauched, in a

ſhort

ſhort time abſolutely ruin, his Majeſty's beſt Subjects: And as this faſhionable, though wicked Diverſion, has hitherto eſcaped the Notice of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for this County, who have induſtriouſly ſuppreſſed many other Houſes of Diſorder and Debauchery; and fearing leſt our Connivance at this great Place of *Gaming* and *Lewdneſs* ſhould incline the Conſtables, by our Example, to omit bringing in their Preſentments for the future, againſt many leſſer Houſes of the like Sort; We do therefore *Preſent* the CONTRIVER and CARRIER-ON of MASQUERADES (which, to ſcreen himſelf, he calls BALLS) at the KING'S THEATRE IN THE HAYMARKET, that he may be detected and puniſhed according to Law; to the more ſpeedy and effectual Performance of which we make no Doubt but this Honourable Court will give all neceſſary Directions.

Extract

Extract from the late Bishop of London's *Sermon before the Society for Reformation of Manners*, A. D. 1725.

IF the Question, says his Lordship, be asked, In what Ways the several Sorts and Orders of Men are bound to promote the Honour of GOD? there is a Difference in the Obligation, arising from the different Abilities and Opportunities which GOD has put into their Hands; but the general Obligation to employ whatever Abilities and Opportunities He has given in his Service and Honour, is common to all Mankind. It is the Voice of Nature and Reason, and of all Ages and Countries that have been Worshipers of the true GOD; and it will be time enough to make it a Question, to what Part of Mankind the Work belongs, when we see any Part of the World over-zealous and over-active in it; it will be time enough to *discharge* any Persons from that Service, when Virtue and Religion have visibly got the better of Vice and Profaneness, and we see them in quiet Possession of their

their Conquests. But at present I doubt it is too true, that as most Men need to be spurr'd on in the Prosecution of this great Work, so the joint Endeavours of all good Men will be little enough to enable Virtue and Religion to maintain their Ground against Vice and Profaneness, and against the various Engines contrived by a corrupt Generation, to support them, and keep them in Countenance.

Amongst these, I must particularly take notice of MASQUERADES, as they deprive Virtue and Religion of their last Refuge, I mean *Shame*; which keeps Multitudes of Sinners within the Bounds of *Decency*, after they have broken all the Ties of Principles and Conscience. But this Invention sets them free from that Tie also, being neither better nor worse than an Opportunity to say and do *there*, what Virtue, Decency, and good Manners, will not permit to be said or done in any other Place. If Persons of either Sex will frequent lewd and profane Plays, or openly join themselves to loose and atheistical Assemblies of any kind, *they have their Reward*; they are sure to be

marked and branded by all good Men, as Persons of corrupt Minds, and vicious Inclinations, who have abandoned Religion, and all Pretensions to it, and given themselves over to Luxury and Profaneness. And, as bad as the World is, this is a heavy Load upon the Characters of Men, and in spite of all the Endeavours of Vice to bear up, and keep itself in Countenance, it sinks them by Degrees into Infamy and Contempt. But this pernicious Invention, MASQUERADES, *intrenches* Vice and Profaneness against all the Assaults and Impressions of *Shame*; and whatever Lewdness may be concerted, whatever Luxury, Immodesty, or Extravagance, may be committed in Word or Deed, no one's Reputation is at Stake, no one's Character is responsible for it. A Circumstance of such terrible Consequence to Virtue and good Manners, that, if MASQUERADES should ever be revived, as we heartily hope they may not, all serious Christians within these Two great and populous Cities will be nearly concerned to lay it to Heart, and diligently to bestir themselves in cautioning their Friends and Neighbours against such fatal Snares: Particularly, all who have the Government

and

and Education of Youth ought to take the greateſt Care to keep them out of the Way of this dangerous Temptation; and then to labour againſt the *Spreading* of it; conſidering the Proneneſs of Mankind to fall into the *Diverſions* and Manners of thoſe who are of a ſuperior *Rank* and *Character*.

I cannot forbear, ſays his Lordſhip, to add, that, all *religious* Conſiderations apart, this is a Diverſion that no ENGLISHMAN ought to be fond of, when he remembers that it was brought among us by the EMBASSADOR of a neighbouring Nation in the laſt Reign, while his MASTER was in Meaſures to *enſlave* us; and indeed there is not a more effectual Way to *enſlave* a People, than firſt to *diſpirit* and *enfeeble* them by Licentiouſneſs and Effeminacy.—

Thus far this pious, learned, and worthy Prelate Dr. *Gibſon*.

Since that time many other Perſons of Eminence and Diſtinction in the Church have ſhewn their Deteſtation of theſe wicked Aſſemblies; and I have heard, that Dr. *Her-*

ring, the present most worthy Archbishop of *Canterbury*, in a Sermon preached at *Bow* before the Societies for Reformation of Manners, said many excellent Things upon this Subject: Whether the Sermon was printed, or no, I cannot recollect; but certainly every Person wished it had been.—It is but lately that these wicked Assemblies have been held in the Day-time.—A JUBILEE MASQUERADE has not been exhibited in the *Italian Manner* to these Cities, till the unnatural and detestable Sin of SODOMY has been transplanted from those *hotter* Climates to our *more temperate* Country, and has dared to shew its hideous Face among a People that formerly had it in the utmost Abhorrence.

The Bishop of *London*, in his excellent and seasonable Letter occasioned by the late *Earthquakes*, has this remarkable Paragraph:

Upon this Occasion, says his Lordship:

THE UNNATURAL LEWDNESS, OF WHICH WE HAVE HEARD SO MUCH OF LATE, IS SOMETHING MORE THAN BRUTISH, AND

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CAN HARDLY BE MENTIONED WITHOUT OFFENDING CHASTE EARS; AND YET CANNOT BE PASSED OVER IN SILENCE, BECAUSE OF THE PARTICULAR MARK OF DIVINE VENGEANCE SET UPON IT, IN THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH, BY FIRE FROM HEAVEN. Dreadful Example!-- How well calculated Assemblies of Persons disguised in MASQUERADE are for the carrying on this abominable Vice, need not be proved.—— For they are covered from the Eye of the World, and so far out of the Reach of *Shame*, and the *Laws* of the Land.

That the Bishop of *London* had his Eye towards MASQUERADES, amongst other Places of Lewdness, is plain from the following Paragraph, though his Lordship did not mention it in the *Lent* Advertisements, when he sent his Letter to the Press.

Is it to be wondered at, says his Lordship, after so much Pains taken to corrupt the Religion and Morals of the People, that they should be indisposed to attend to any thing serious, or that they grow sick of Religion, which has *no Comforts for them*; that they

they fly from the Church, and croud to Play-houses? [His Lordship would now say to MASQUERADES] That they are tired of themselves, and their own Thoughts, and want to lose themselves in Company from Morning to Night? It is this unhappy, unsettled State of Mind, that has introduced a kind of general Idleness among the People, and given Rise to *almost infinite Places of Diversion* in and about this Town; *it were well, if* they were Places *of Diversion only*; but they are often Places for carrying on *worse* Designs, and give Opportunities to the Profligate to seduce the Innocent, who often meet their *Ruin*, where they only came for *Pleasure*. What an Idea, says his Lordship, must it give to all the Churches abroad, of the Manner in which LENT is kept in this Protestant Country!—We have turned this Season, appointed for serious Reflections, and Humiliation of Body and Spirit, into a Time of *Mirth* and *Jollity*, of *Music*, *Dancing*, and *riotous Living*.

Notwithstanding this seasonable and pathetic Exhortation of the Bishop's, *Diver-*

sions

ſions rather increaſed than leſſened; and as his Lordſhip took Notice of Fifteen Advertiſements in one Paper, juſt after the laſt dreadful Shock of an Earthquake, I caſt my Eye over a Paper the very next Week, and there was no leſs than Twenty-two Advertiſements for Plays, Operas, Muſic, *&c. &c.* and in PASSION WEEK this following one from *Ranelagh* Gardens, alter'd only ſince, as they have put it off from one Week to another.

BY

BY PARTICULAR DESIRE,

THE BALL that was intended to be at RANELAGH-HOUSE Yesterday, is put off till *Wednesday* next, the 25th Instant:

Which will be after the *Venetian* Manner,

In the Day-time,

With much greater Variety than was at the last Jubilee.

The Doors and Sideboards for Tea and Coffee open at Four o'Clock, the other Sideboards open at Seven, and shut up at Eleven.

Tickets will be delivered on *Monday* next, at *White*'s Chocolate-House *St. James's-street*, at *Ranelagh* House, and no-where else,

At One Guinea each.

No Person admitted but in Habits.

A sufficient Guard will be within and without the House and Gardens, to prevent all Disorders and Indecencies, and to oblige Persons guilty immediately to quit the Place.

A proper Guard will be likewise on the Roads.

Note,

Note, 'Tis chang'd to the above Day, on account of the Rehearsal at *St. Paul's* for the Sons of the Clergy, being on *Tuesday* the 24th Instant.

Some zealous Person, warm'd, I presume, against this Insolence, so soon after a Deliverance from a Judgment that might have destroyed these Two Cities in a few Moments, printed and posted up the following Paper upon the Churches in *London* and *Westminster*, and sent them to many Persons of Distinction in Church and State; a Copy of which follows——

WHereas a most impudent Advertisement has been printed in the Daily Papers, tending to the Dishonour of God, and a Scandal to these Two Cities (which have been so lately threatened with deserved Destruction by the Great Governor of the World); *viz.*

"That a JUBILEE-MASQUERADE-BALL, "in the *Venetian* Dress, on *Tuesday* next, "in *Easter* Week, will be exhibited, *in the*

" *Face of the Sun*, with New Improve-
" ments, at *Ranelagh* Gardens, in the *Ita-*
" *lian* Manner;"

We are assured, that all People, who have any Sense left of Religion, or common Decency, are fully determined to shew their Abhorrence and Detestation, in the most public manner, against *All* that are audacious enough to presume to go to such an illegal and wicked Assembly: And, tho' they may imagine themselves concealed by being MASK'D, proper Care will be taken to oblige them to shew their Faces; and then their *Names*, and *Places of Abode*, will be publicly exposed to the World.

N. B. MASQUERADES are against the BLACK ACT, and were presented in the late King's Reign by the Grand Jury of *Middlesex*, composed of Gentlemen of the greatest Worth and Dignity.

It is not to be presumed, that the *Governor of Chelsea College*, or any of his Majesty's Forces, will be suffered to protect Persons going

going to or returning from an illegal Assembly: And it is expected that the Sheriffs of *London* and *Middlesex*, assisted by the Justices of Peace, and their Civil Officers, will attend in the Roads leading to *Ranelagh Gardens*, to keep the Peace of the City of *Westminster*; and to seize or disperse, all Persons that shall be found going in MASKS, and bring them to such Punishment as the Law in that Case directs.

And at the same time this public Notice is given to all Persons, of whatsoever Rank or Quality, who shall hereafter, in Defiance of the Laws of GOD and their Country, presume to play at any Game ON THE LORD'S DAY (which the GOD of Heaven has commanded to be kept holy, and for the Profanation of which so many Judgments were inflicted on the *Jewish* Nation), will have their *Names*, and *Places of Abode*, printed, and posted up in all public Places in *London* and *Westminster*.

N. B. If ſuch Wickedneſſes are permitted, the next Shock of an Earthquake may well be dreaded. Let all Hands unite (as the Biſhop of *London* adviſes) to ſtem the Torrent of Wickedneſs, and put ſome Stop to the glaring Impieties hitherto committed with Impunity.

PSALM cvi. 29, 30, 31.

Thus they provoked him to Anger with their Inventions, and the Plague brake in upon them.—Then ſtood up PHINEHAS, *and executed Judgment; and ſo the Plague was ſtayed.—And That was counted unto Him for Righteouſneſs, unto all Generations for evermore.*

I make no Remarks upon this Paper. I I preſume it was well meant: Whether it will have any Effect, is not yet known; for the Reaſons aſſign'd for putting off the MASQUERADE till *Wedneſday* the 25th, are on account of the Rehearſal at *St. Paul's*, for the Sons of the Clergy, being on *Tueſday* the 24th Inſtant: But I think they had better put it off for this Summer.

It

It is therefore proper to warn all Persons that have any common Decency or Regard for themselves left, not to venture to go to *Ranelagh Gardens* that Day, left in their Way to it they may meet with a Treatment they little expect; for though I am, and always shall be, an Enemy to Riots and Commotions of any kind, yet I will not be answerable for the Resentment of the *lower* kind of People, which no Guards ought to protect them from. They are not Subjects intitled to the Protection of the Civil Power: —The Civil Power, no Doubt, may be called in; but who are they to seize first? —Surely those that are guilty of a Breach of the Peace, and of common Decency: And when these Offenders in Masquerade are unmask'd, examined, and sent Home again; the Mob (as it will be called) will soon disperse.— Sure the INVALIDS of *Chelsea-Hospital* may be better employ'd than in guarding the Roads upon that Occasion; and Mr. Sheriff *Janssen* has shewn, to his immortal Honour, that the Civil Magistrate, attended by his Officers and Constables, are the only proper Persons to see the Laws executed

executed againſt the moſt notorious Offenders.—— What the Advertiſement means by aſſuring the *Masks*, that they ſhall be ſafely guarded to and from *Ranelagh Gardens* I cannot conceive: It is very audacious and aſſuming, and I will venture to ſay, *This is a Promiſe they cannot perform.*——Humanity has led me to give this Notice to many unwary young People of both Sexes, who may be led by a fooliſh Faſhion, to venture being put into a *Fright*, that may be fatal to their tender Conſtitutions, and the Conſequences of which they will not eaſily forget.

F I N I S.

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